



## Shane Rattenbury MLA

MINISTER FOR TERRITORY AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES  
MINISTER FOR JUSTICE  
MINISTER FOR ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER AFFAIRS  
MINISTER FOR SPORT AND RECREATION

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MEMBER FOR MOLONGLO

Mr Tom Duncan  
Clerk  
ACT Legislative Assembly  
London Circuit  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Mr Duncan

I refer to your letter of 27 November 2014 regarding petition No 19-14 lodged by Mr Gentleman MLA and received in the Assembly on 27 November 2014.

My response to this petition for tabling is at Attachment A.

Yours sincerely

Shane Rattenbury MLA  
Minister for Territory and Municipal Services

20 JAN 2015

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### ACT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

London Circuit, Canberra ACT 2601 GPO Box 1020, Canberra ACT 2601  
Phone: (02) 6205 0005 Fax: (02) 6205 0007 Email: rattenbury@act.gov.au  
Facebook: shanerattenburymla Twitter: @ShaneRattenbury



**PETITION No. 19-14 TO THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY LODGED BY MR GENTLEMAN MLA ON 27 NOVEMBER 2014.**

**REGARDING:**

**Petition: Urgent need for re-assessment to advance the construction of a one-way connection of Parkes Way to Allara Street.**

The petition from Mr Gentleman MLA of the Australian Capital Territory brings to the attention of the Legislative Assembly a request for the re-assessment of current plan by the Major Capital Works section of the Directorate of Territory and Municipal Services (TAMS), Roads ACT to advance the construction of a one-way connection of Parkes Way to Allara Street.

**Response:**

Firstly, I would like to thank Mr Gentleman MLA for submitting the petition on behalf of the Canberra residents who have taken the time to consider the proposal.

I can advise that since early October 2014 TAMS officers have been working with representatives of the various residential and commercial operations along Allara Street to respond to their concerns. Additional work has been undertaken to reassure the respondents that access and safety of all users has been considered and addressed in the current designs.

The contractor for the Main Contracted Works for the Constitution Avenue upgrade have erected construction fencing and made preparations to undertake construction of the connection of Parkes Way & Allara Street

I also note the concerns with the potential impact of this connection on future events which utilise the existing pedestrian bridge to Commonwealth Park. TAMS event officers have discussed the potential for event proponents to temporarily close the new connection for event traffic management purposes.

The Constitution Avenue project team have reviewed a range of options for addressing the accessibility issue created by the Constitution Avenue project, which has generated the requirement for the Allara Street/ Parks Way Connection.. Unfortunately, there is no alternative solution in this case.

Signalisation of the Parkes Way and Coranderrk Street roundabout, which has been described as an alternative, is also being considered to address the congestion issues on Parkes Way as part of the broader City to Lake Project. Unfortunately this improvement would not address the accessibility issue, which is the driver for the connection into Allara Street from Parkes Way.

The project team are taking every opportunity to ensure this new connection is designed and implemented in a fashion that provides a safe environment for all users. Measures such as a 40km/h speed limit and priority crossings for pedestrians and cyclists are being installed to create a slow speed environment. These improvements are included in the current designs for the Civic Cycle Loop Allara Street Southern Section, which will be submitted to the National Capital Authority for works approval early in 2015.

It should be noted that in previous planning documents for the City precinct, including the most recent City Plan which was presented to the community in August 2013, this new road connection had been identified. It was these planning documents that supported the proposed connection as a possible solution to the accessibility issues generated on Constitution Avenue.

The current City to Lake Plans, which include major changes along the Parkes Way corridor, are currently recommending that two way access is provided between Allara Street and Parkes Way. This is likely to be a connection with a future service road type arrangement separated from the main Parkes Way through traffic.

Based upon the information provided above, I have agreed that works on constructing the connection from Parkes Way into Allara Street can proceed, with activity likely to start in February 2015.